



Student Spotlight: Augustus' Story

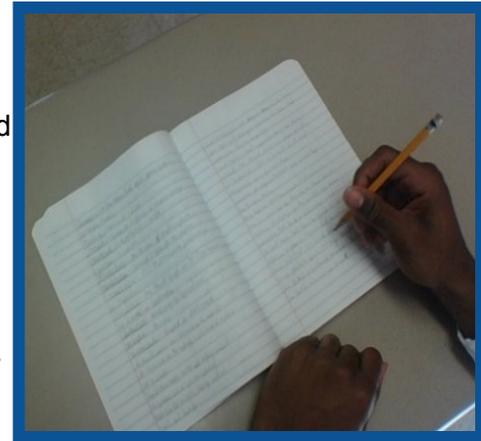
"learning more and striving to return to society as a successful and knowledgeable man"

My name is Augustus and I am an inmate at Al Burruss state prison. I initially enrolled in the Foothills Charter High School in the Fall of 2015. I was very adamant and determined to become a successful high school graduate despite my incarceration. I continued to stay motivated not only by the principals and the teachers, but the aides as well. Due to all the support and encouragement I received, I became a high school graduate in the Spring of 2016.

During my time as a student, several factors lead me towards learning more and striving to return to society as a successful and knowledgeable man. Learning something new on a daily basis helped to enhance my determination.

Family means a lot to me and has also played a key role in my rehabilitation. I am the youngest of two siblings, one older brother and older sister. Along with my mother they have always supported me in letting me know that I was destined to be somebody, and I'm proud to say that they will be there for my graduation. Science is my favorite subject, and I've always dreamed of going to college and furthering my education in that field. Thanks to Foothills, Dr. McCord, Ms. Alford, teachers and aides that dream is now a reality. I am now repaying their hard work by becoming an aide and assisting my peers in helping them achieve their goals as well.

Editor's Note: This story was submitted by Augustus, and to honor and respect his voice, it has not been edited. The Foothills staff is proud to be a part of Augustus' journey.



Message from the Superintendent

As of this writing, Foothills Education Charter High School has 84 graduates, and by the end of the summer, we anticipate having 150. What an achievement after our first year of operation! Foothills has truly provided a flexible high school option to the communities that we serve, and many students have benefitted.

To date, we have held five of our seven graduation ceremonies. What a celebration of the accomplishments of our students, and a testament to the impact of Foothills on the community! We have recorded each ceremony, and soon, we hope to link some clips from the ceremonies, as well as the speeches from some of our graduates, on our website. Hearing from them firsthand about the impact of Foothills on the trajectory of their lives has been inspiring.

It's a great day at Foothills, and it's a great day for Georgia!

Dr. Sherrie Gibney-Sherman Foothills Superintendent

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Why a Strategic Plan?

“Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?”

“That depends a good deal on where you want to get to,” said the Cat.

“I don’t much care where,” said Alice.

“Then it doesn’t matter which way you go,” said the Cat.

Alice in Wonderland
Lewis Carroll

Because Foothills Charter High School has a definite idea where we want to get to, we have developed a strategic plan to ensure we are aligning our work and resources to achieve our mission and vision. A strategic plan ensures that we

- Set goals.
- Focus energy.
- Share a purpose.
- Direct resources.

The Foothills Vision

Foothills Education Charter High School strives to be an accessible, high-quality high school option that is flexible and responsive to the needs of the People of Georgia and its communities.

Mapping the Path to Our Vision

Like the Cheshire cat says in *Alice in Wonderland*, if you don’t care where you are going, any path will do. But, here at Foothills, we have a vision of serving our communities in a very specific way—as an accessible, high-quality high school option that is flexible and responsive to the needs of the students and the communities we serve.

To ensure that we remain focused on our vision and mission, Foothills Education Charter High School has developed a strategic plan, which involved reading and incorporating feedback from 119 stakeholders. A strategic plan requires us to set goals and priorities so that we can focus resources and energy as we move toward our vision. By making a plan, we ensure that everyone at Foothills—from the superintendent to the teachers to the mentors—knows where we are going and understands how we plan to get there.

The Foothills strategic plan contains five goals:

- **Ensure all students are college and career ready.**
- **Provide support services that enable students to assess academic and career needs to achieve success.**
- **Provide a safe, healthy, and caring environment that is conducive to teaching and learning.**
- **Ensure effective stewardship of all resources to ensure optimal financial performance.**
- **Maintain highly qualified leadership, governance board, faculty and support staff who foster a professional and supportive teaching and learning environment.**

The Foothills strategic plan outlines strategies for achieving each of these goals, as well as how we will measure our progress. Soon, the entire strategic plan will be available on the Foothills website, and as we evaluate our progress yearly, all stakeholders will be able to see a report of progress on the website.

By developing a plan that supports our vision and mission at Foothills, we ensure that all Foothills stakeholders, unlike Alice, know “where we want to get to” and “which way . . . to go from here.”



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